

Attorney Docket No.: **ABLE-0021**
Inventors: **Secombes et al.**
Serial No.: **10/088,780**
Filing Date: **July 22, 2002**
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This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

Claims 1-75 (canceled)

Claim 76 (currently amended): A gene construct for protection of a fish against viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus (VHSV) comprising:

a non-infectious DNA nucleic acid construct encoding a viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus-neutralizing single chain antibody BU1 comprising Genebank Accession Number AF302092 with a DNA sequence

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cagtgtgcta acatgagggc agtgtgtttg atgctgactg ccttattgat  
gctggaatat gtgtgccgga gtgaccaggt gcagctgcag gagtcaggac  
ctggcctcgt gaaaccttct cagtctctgt ctctcacctg ctctgtcact  
ggctactcca tcaccagtgg ttattactgg acctggatcc ggcagtttcc  
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aagaaccagt ttttctgaa gttgaaatct gtgactactg aggacacagc  
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ggctctggct ctgaatctaa agtggatgac atcgagctca cccagtctcc  
tgctcccag tctgcatctc tgggagaaag tgtcaccatc acatgcctgg-  
caagtcagac cattggtaca tggttagcat ggtatcaaca gaaaccaggg  
aaatctctc agctcctgat ttatgctgca accagtttgg cagatggggg  
cccatcaagg ttcagtggta gtggatctgg cacaaaattt tctttcaaga  
tcagcagcct acaggctgaa gattttgtaa gttattactg tcaacaactt  
tacagtactc cgtacacgtt cggagggggg accaagctcg agatcaaacg
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gactgtggct gcaccatctg tcttcatctt cccgccatct gatgagcagt
tgaaatctgg aactgcctct gttgtgtgcc tgctgaataa cttctatccc
agagaggcca aagtacagtg gaagggtgat aacgccctcc aatcgggtaa
ctcccaggag agtgtcacag agcaggacag caaggacagc acctacagcc
tcagcagcac cctgacgctg agcaaagcag actacgagaa acacaaagtc
tacgcctgcg aagtcacca tcagggcctg agttcgcccg tcacaaagag
cttcaaccgc ggagagtcac aagttagata tccat (SEQ ID NO:1)
encoding a secretion signal of transforming growth factor
beta linked to the 5' end of the single chain antibody
BU1 gene, said sequence being inserted into a
plasmid downstream a CMV promoter and upstream a poly
adenylation signal.

Claim 77 (previously presented): A composition for
passive immunization comprising the gene construct of claim
76.

Claim 78 (previously presented): A method for
prophylactically treating fish against viral haemorrhagic
septicaemia virus comprising administering the composition
of claim 77 to a fish via injection to the epaxial muscle
below the dorsal fin of the fish.